

***Dionaea* 'Cupped Trap':** The main characteristic of this plant is that the two lobes are strongly fused at the end of the trap, making a cup.

***Dionaea* 'Dentate Traps':** The marginal spines are shortened to triangular teeth.

***Dionaea* 'Fused Tooth':** This bizarre mutation has the marginal spines fused together in grotesque masses. The mutation is especially evident on leaves produced in late summer.

***Dionaea* 'Jaws':** A large plant with vigorous growth that has marginal spines like shark's teeth.

***Dionaea* 'Justina Davis':** This new cultivar name designates a bright green plant that has been in cultivation for many years. It is characterized by the complete lack of orange or red pigmentation in the leaves, even when the plant is grown in full sun. It is commonly grown with unregistered names such as "all green," "green traps," or "heterodoxa," but beware, not all clones are truly lacking orange or red pigmentation! The electric green leaves of the true

'Justina Davis' can be mistaken for fresh young traps that have not yet had time to develop mature characteristics. The name 'Justina Davis' commemorates the wife of Arthur Dobbs, who was a mere 15 years old when she married the governor of North Carolina in 1762.

***Dionaea* 'Louchâpâtes':** Also known as *Dionaea* 'Noodle Ladle.' The marginal spines are fused in bundles of three or so, and the two trap lobes are slightly fused at the end.



***Dionaea* 'Red Piranha':** A plant with the coloration of *Dionaea* 'Red Dragon' but with dentate marginal trap spines.

***Dionaea* 'Sawtooth':** A plant with marginal spines reduced to short teeth that are further divided into tiny teethlets.

***Dionaea* 'Wacky Traps':** This new cultivar name is for a plant that was originally noticed by Mike Ross during a trip to Cresco Nursery in The Netherlands in 1996. The trap tissue never completely develops, so the leaf lobes have a jagged, incomplete structure. The name 'Wacky Traps' is one that has developed over time by grower consensus. This plant never performs well and is disliked by some growers, while others delight in its strangeness.



RED BANDING The traps of this plant (above) show exterior "banding."

LIME GREEN The leaves of *Dionaea* 'Justina Davis' (left) are pure green.

DISTORTED *Dionaea* 'Wacky Traps' (above right) exhibits its strangely distorted leaves.

REMAINS *Dionaea* 'Red Piranha' (right) reveals it has eaten a centipede.



Conservation issues

As noted in the range description, the number of places this amazing plant naturally occurs is diminishing rapidly. The primary reason for this is habitat destruction. Until recently, the single largest destroyer of *Dionaea* habitat was the conversion of land to timber plantations. More recently, the development has shifted to the creation of vacation homes, retirement communities, and golf courses. Another major stress is fire suppression. Without fire, other vegetation overruns *Dionaea*.

There is no indication these stresses will lessen in the future, and ultimately we will probably be left with a few relict populations of plants in scattered natural areas set aside as nature preserves.

The only tenable way to protect *Dionaea* is to establish suitably large, unfragmented nature preserves, either by state agencies, federal agencies, or nonprofit organizations. Some have been established, but even these are at risk. The Green Swamp in North Carolina is the finest remaining habitat for this plant, but there are projects under way to further dissect the swamp with a large landfill and an extension of interstate highway I-74.

Another risk to *Dionaea* is illegal poaching. Even though *Dionaea* plants are easily available from tissue culture sources, they continue to be stolen from the wild. Heavy fines and surveillance reduce some of this theft, but certainly not all of it. While poaching by hobbyists is a minor threat compared to habitat destruction, it is an irresponsible activity and must stop if carnivorous plant growers wish to have any kind of input to the conservation of this fabulous plant.

NEW GENERATION These tiny *Dionaea* plants produced through tissue culture (see page 191) pose no threat to natural populations.

